

Appropriations Committee

Testimony of Harold Douglas New Britain CT

I support SB 307

S.B. No. 307 AN ACT PROVIDING FUNDING FOR THE STATE-WIDE FIREARMS TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE', to fund the state-wide firearms trafficking task force. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened: That the sum of one million dollars be appropriated to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, for the state-wide firearms trafficking task force.

I support HB 5561

H.B. No. 5561 AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR THE STATE-WIDE FIREARMS TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE', to fully fund the state-wide firearms trafficking task force to improve its ability to enforce Connecticut gun trafficking laws. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened: That section 29-38e of the general statutes be amended to require that the state-wide firearms trafficking task force be fully funded to the extent necessary to accomplish the duties of the task force.

Connecticut General Statutes 29-38e - State-wide firearms trafficking task force. Duties: The task force shall: 1 Review the problem of illegal trafficking in firearms and its effects, including its effects on the public, and implement solutions to address the problem 2 identify persons illegally trafficking in firearms and focus resources to prosecute such persons 3 track firearms which were sold or distributed illegally and implement solutions to remove such firearms from persons illegally in possession of them; and 4 coordinate its activities with other law enforcement agencies within and without the state.

In my opinion these proposals are a right step in the right direction, frankly I am very pleased to finally see some good common sense proposals. I believe the task force can have a direct impact by physically reducing illegal firearms trafficking and the traffickers themselves, also having a direct impact of removing firearms from those who are in illegal possession of them. Also let us not dismiss the psychological impact, I do know from personal experience just how devastating the psychological impact can be, for this personal knowledge determined if my mission would succeed and I would return alive or not in a combat zone, this impact alone is incalculable and serves as the best deterrent, imagine for a moment if you will that you are a criminal, it is very difficult to do your job when you know a force is specifically targeting you thus you can no longer focus on your objective and the risk begins to outweigh the reward. This kind of effect is un-measurable and thus very effective.

In closing I fully support these bills.

Thank you